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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ESHOO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 30, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANNA G. ESHOO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY JOSHUA MOYERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nassau County Sheriff's Deputy Joshua Moyers, who was tragically killed last weekend in the line of duty.

On September 26, 2021, Deputy Moyers gave his last full measure of devotion to our northeast Florida com-

munity. He was only 29 years old. My heart breaks for his friends, fellow officers, and loved ones who already miss him dearly.

Deputy Moyers graduated from Hilliard Middle-Senior High School, Florida State College, and St. Johns River State College before joining the Nassau County Sheriff's Office in 2015.

Madam Speaker, Joshua wasn't just a good officer; he was a great officer. In fact, in 2018, Deputy Moyers received the "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" award for his work on a very significant narcotics case.

Having spent a career in law enforcement, I have seen the names of far too many outstanding officers go up on our National Law Enforcement Memorial wall here in D.C. Deputy Moyers will be no exception.

His death serves as a tragic reminder of the dangers facing law enforcement officers across the country every single day. We are so thankful for men and women like Officer Moyers, who volunteer to step into the breach in defense of our citizens, and we owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

I am reminded of a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, which says: "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you lived and lived well."

Officer Moyers' life may have been cut short, but he lived with honor and compassion, and he made a real difference, a tangible difference, to so many lives on the First Coast.

I am grateful to the Nassau County Sheriff's Office for capturing the man responsible for his death, and I hope that justice will be swiftly served.

May God bless the Moyers family, and may He give them the strength to persevere during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, I would like to now ask that this Chamber join me for a moment of silence in remembrance of Officer Moyers.

TRIBUTE TO LIFE OF DR. DIANA NATALICIO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Diana Natalicio, who will be remembered as an icon of higher education and a trailblazer in El Paso.

Dr. Natalicio served for 31 years as the president of the University of Texas at El Paso, my alma mater, UTEP, between 1988 and 2019. As the longest sitting president at UTEP, her imprint on the institution will be everlasting.

She devoted her life's work to making UTEP accessible and elevating it to a top-tier institution. As a first-generation college student herself, she knew the importance of working for an equitable college experience for first-generation and low-income college students and access to higher education for all. In 2019, 51 percent of UTEP's graduates were first generation.

Dr. Natalicio taught us that no matter where you come from, everyone deserves a good education. She also understood the struggles that El Pasoans face and worked on finding solutions to those barriers. I am deeply grateful for Dr. Diana Natalicio's service to our community and the vision she created for UTEP students.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Dr. Diana Natalicio's life and contributions to El Paso.

May her legacy continue to inspire us all.

TIME TO CUT THROUGH THE NOISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because it is time to cut through the noise and recognize the opportunity at hand.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Last month, the Senate passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with the support of 19 Republican Senators, including Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL. Since then, I have heard the loudest voices in the room say a lot about this bill, except for calling it what it is, a once-in-a-generation investment in our Nation's physical infrastructure.

For myself and so many others, a bill like this is the reason we came to Congress.

We have heard from the mom or dad who hit a pothole and had to pay out of pocket to fix the family car.

We have seen our children struggle and fall behind in school without reliable internet access.

Our communities are the ones where basic access to clean drinking water has been jeopardized by aging pipes.

Our workers and businesses are the ones calling for investments that will help them compete on the world stage.

So, the question is: What will we, as Members of Congress, do about it?

Will we allow blatant partisanship on both sides of the aisle to stand in the way of legislation that is objectively good for the American people?

Will we ignore the very real crisis that is facing infrastructure systems in communities like the one I represent in central New York?

Will we simply disregard the pleas from the most significant labor and business advocates in the country?

I, for one, will not. I strongly support the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and I urge the Speaker to bring the bill to the floor as a standalone vote today.

This long-overdue legislation delivers comprehensive investment in our roads and bridges, ports and waterways, clean water systems, broadband networks, electrical grids, and airports.

The bill takes essential steps to streamline Federal permitting processes and undertakes the crucial work of improving the resiliency of our hard infrastructure.

Critically, this legislation includes responsible pay-fors in addition to its \$550 billion in new spending for physical infrastructure. The CBO estimates that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will have a 33 percent return on investment because of the economic benefits of long-term infrastructure projects. Experts from the American Enterprise Institute have argued that spending under this legislation would not contribute to inflation because the spending would be spread out over a decade and focus on improving long-term productivity.

To be sure, no legislation is perfect, but this measure is the product of an honest, good faith, and bipartisan effort to reach consensus and deliver for our constituents. I know that because I have spent many years working with my colleagues in the Problem Solvers Caucus to reach this moment.

Since 2017, our group has worked on a framework that would move the ball

forward on infrastructure and present real policy solutions for the challenges we face.

In presenting our work to a bipartisan group of Governors, Senators, and Members of the House in Annapolis, Maryland, earlier this year, we helped lay the framework for the bipartisan infrastructure bill the House is now considering.

I am grateful to all of my colleagues who worked on this, and I sincerely hope that this work will not have been done in vain. I hope that we can see through the cloud of misinformation and partisan efforts to hold this bill hostage. I hope my colleagues will look at this bill objectively, on its own merits, and consider the benefits that it holds for the communities they represent.

I would also remind my colleagues who are unsure of where they will fall this one simple thing: The world is watching.

Our Nation's adversaries, like the Chinese Communist Party, would like nothing more than to see this body yield to partisan interests and refuse to invest in its own people. These adversaries would cheer our decision to ignore the crises of the past year and decide not to invest in cybersecurity for our infrastructure assets. They would be relieved if we continue a status quo that erases our economy's competitive edge and allows malign actors to gain the upper hand.

Simply put, with this bill, Congress is taking a critical step in deciding who will build the future. I will back a future built by American workers, ensuring opportunities for American families and American businesses.

I sincerely hope my colleagues will put down their swords just this once—just this once—and join me.

COVID INFECTION AND VACCINATION RATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, this morning, I wanted to share with the Chamber the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services regarding infection rates and vaccination rates in the country.

I am proud to say, the State of Connecticut, which the Speaker knows well, we ranked as the lowest infection rate in the country, 1.4 percent, 14 cases per 100,000.

Simultaneous with that report were the numbers regarding vaccination rates. For the population 18 and over, we are at an 80 percent vaccination rate, which, again, is the highest in the country.

It is blindingly obvious there is a causal connection between communities that come together to boost vaccination rates and the benefit and the result of reducing infection rates. The

benefit, in terms of our hospital system in the State of Connecticut, again, we have 9 per 100,000 COVID patients, which ranks number three in the country, right behind Vermont and the State of Massachusetts, which are 7 per 100,000 and 8 per 100,000.

What does that mean? It means there is no pressure on your ICU units. There is allowance for normal elective surgeries and the processes of hospitals to continue, which is the endgame of what we all should be focused on like a laser, which is to get beyond this pandemic.

It didn't happen by itself.

Anecdotally, in my district, I was over at the Coast Guard Academy the other day: a 99 percent vaccination rate with the student body at the Coast Guard Academy. These are the future leaders of our coastal sea service, and they get it. They understand the benefits, that they can attend class and have a normal campus life.

Across the river, the submarine base in Groton, again, just shy of a 90 percent vaccination rate. That is 10,000 sailors and officers. These are people with families. These are folks who have pregnant spouses. But they get it. I mean, there is no way you can socially distance in a submarine. They are now the number one naval installation in America in terms of vaccination rates.

Again, it did not happen by itself. Governor Lamont, back in the spring of 2020, basically tuned out all the noise. He brought together experts from the Yale School of Public Health. He brought together experts from the Hartford HealthCare hospital system, which is the largest hospital system. They brought together the community health centers. They brought together community groups. They stayed focused in terms of getting testing, masking, and vaccinations out there to the public at large.

I would note, Madam Speaker, that when we passed the American Rescue Plan back in March, like every State, we were given an allocation to our public health system for communication and education. Again, it has been put to good use, obviously, as these numbers show this morning.

On Tuesday, the Biden administration announced the release of funding for community health centers, which have been the backbone in terms of reaching hard-to-get populations, to get the help that they need during this pandemic. In eastern Connecticut, the two community health systems—United Children and Family Services, and Generations—are getting close to \$1 million for new equipment and new infrastructure to carry out their mission to make sure that we are going to beat this virus once and for all.

All the issues that we talk about here—and they are all so important—right now, we still cannot be distracted from the need to get on the other side of this pandemic. These numbers from my State today show that when you work together, when you just combat all the misinformation and bad stuff